



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Press Release

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
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### 2012 Census of Agriculture Underway

Report forms for the 2012 Census of Agriculture should arrive in mailboxes any day now – if they haven't already. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2013. Farmers can return their forms by mail or online by visiting a secure website at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

Conducted once every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census is more than just a count of U.S. farms and the people who operate them. It is a look at land use and ownership, production practices, expenditures, and other things that affect the way farmers do business in the 21st century.

Results of the Census are published at the national, state, county, Congressional District – and even zip code levels.

"Census information is used by companies, cooperatives, planners, and lawmakers who serve farmers and rural communities – including federal, state, and local governments, agribusinesses, and trade associations," said Vince Matthews, Director of NASS's Idaho Field Office. "Farmers and ranchers can also use Census data to help make informed decisions about the future of their own operations."

Taking part in the Census is increasingly important to farmers and rural communities because it provides important information about the state of agriculture in every county of the United States. By completing their Census forms, farmers help shape farm programs, boost rural services, and grow their farm future.

"The Census of Agriculture gives farmers a voice to help spread the word about the value of farming," added Matthews. "Along with their achievements as business men and women, U.S. farmers know about the demands and obstacles they face in their community and industry. Providing accurate and timely information during the Census helps tell the story of farming today, especially to urban populations and non-farming neighbors."

Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the Census and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential. For more information about the Census, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828).

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

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